

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.114, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4-6 have been rewritten in independent form. No new matter has been added.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 4-7 will be all the claims pending in the application.

**I. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph**

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons of record and the following additional reasons.

As Applicants repeatedly pointed out, the term "oxygen ratio," as used in Applicants' disclosure, is commonly accepted terminology. Specifically, "an oxygen ratio" is known to those skilled in the art to represent a ratio of the amount of oxygen that is supplied to the amount of oxygen required for complete combustion.

For the Examiner's consideration, Applicants submit herewith copies of two additional documents, i.e., JP 40-38876 and JP 33-37584 and partial English translations thereof, each of which describes "oxygen ratio." Specifically, JP '876 describes, in paragraph [0017], feeding primary oxygen and secondary oxygen in a stoichiometric amount necessary for completely burning a fuel, i.e., oxygen ratio being 1.0. Further, JP '876 describes, in paragraph [0018] that when the above primary oxygen and secondary oxygen are added to a

carrier gas containing oxygen in an amount necessary for completely burning the fuel, the ratio of oxygen is 1.05. That is,

$$\text{oxygen ratio} = \frac{\text{the total amount of oxygen supplied}}{\text{the amount of oxygen necessary for complete burning of a fuel}} = 1.05$$

Moreover, JP '584 defines an "oxygen ratio" as "a ratio of the measured amount of oxygen and the stoichiometric oxygen amount" (paragraph [0028]).

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would understand the meaning of "an oxygen ratio" and know how it is determined. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

#### **II. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,063,354 (*Mangold et al.*). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-3.

#### **III. Response to Claim Objection**

Claims 4-7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection of the term "oxygen ratio," now recited in claims 4-6, has been overcome as set forth above. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any

questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 452-7932 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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